



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
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John Klingman
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request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2022/99136

4 January 2023

Dear John Klingman,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 10 December. You wrote:

“In the past 12 months how many Universal Credit claimants were identified as holding assets greater than £16,000? Did any of those that were identified face criminal prosecution or punitive financial fines? If so, please provide details.”

DWP Response

We confirm that we do hold some of the information you have requested, and a copy of the information is provided below.

We can confirm that between November 2021 and October 2022, 3,690* claims to Universal Credit (UC) were made but did not reach payment before the claim was closed, as savings and capital exceeding £16,000 were declared.

Between November 2021 and October 2022, 6,960* Universal Credit claims that had been paid a UC award, declared savings and capital greater than £16,000 and were subsequently closed. Note, that these claims did not necessarily fail to declare their savings and capital at the appropriate time.

* Figures rounded to the nearest 10 UC claims.

Our internal management systems do not categorise fraud solely by ‘capital’ and (in addition) cannot provide data on a specific batch of cases. As such, we do not hold the information requested in the second part of your question.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.